

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045049
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02
COME-00 /100 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR/HFO
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
EUR/NE:RFUNSETH(SUBSTANCE)
S/P:MSPIEGEL(INFO)
EB/IFD/OMA:JWINDER (INFO)
AF/C:WLCUTLER
TREASURY:RBLAKE(INFO)
-----112139 220305Z /63

P R 220156Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EFIN, EAID, CG,

SUBJECT:MOBUTU PLAN

REF: BRUSSELS 03033

SUMMARY: WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT FROM OUTERS AND GEENS
TO DISCUSS MOBUTU PLAN, BELIEVE WE COULD AGREE TO
TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING IN BRUSSELS AT A RELATIVELY EARLY
DATE, BUT WE ALSO WOULD LIKE SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO
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BELGIAN THINKING ON POSSIBLE TIMING, ORDER AND SUBSTANCE
OF EVENTS RELEVANT TO MOBUTU PLAN AND ASSOCIATED
INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY

1. WE ARE NOW PREPARING FOR VISIT OF ZAIRIAN SPECIAL
EMISSARIES, FONMIN UMBA DE LUTETE AND MINPLAN MULUMBA,
ON MARCH 1-3. HOWEVER, AS WE UNDERSTAND FROM KINSHASA'S

1706, VISIT WILL BE ESSENTIALLY OF POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC NATURE, RATHER THAN ONE DESIGNED TO UNVEIL FULL DETAILS OF MOBUTU PLAN. WE WONDER HOW OUTERS/GEENS VISIT IS INTENDED TO FIT, IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE AND TIMING, WITH ZAIRIAN VISIT. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE OUTERS AND GEENS, HOPEFULLY TO RECEIVE MORE SPECIFICS ON PLAN THAN UMBA AND MULUMBA APPARENTLY WILL BE ABLE TO

CONVEY. WE ASSUME THAT BELGIANS WILL TIME THEIR TRAVEL SO NOT AS TO CROSS WIRES WITH ZAIRIAN VISIT. QUERY: GIVEN ZAIRIAN ARRIVAL DATE NEXT WEEK, WOULD WE ASSUME CORRECTLY THAT BELGIAN VISIT WOULD FOLLOW AND SUPPLEMENT THAT OF ZAIRIANS?

2. AS TO SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, WE REMAIN OPEN TO IDEA OF A TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING CONVENED BY GOB IN BRUSSELS. WE ASSUME THAT INTENT OF SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE TO GO INTO DEPTH ON DETAILS OF MOBUTU PLAN AND, PERHAPS, TO REACH SOME CONSENSUS ON WHAT STEPS MIGHT THEN FOLLOW. THIS SESSION, THEREFORE, WOULD BE NON-COMMITTING FOR PARTICIPATING STATES AND IFI'S AND WOULD PERMIT REPRESENTATIVES TO RETURN TO CAPITALS TO DO PREPARATORY WORK FOR NEXT STAGE. QUERY: DOES FOREGOING APPROXIMATE THE BELGIAN VIEW?

3. BELGIANS ARE EXAMINING (PARA. 6 REFTTEL) POSSIBILITY
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OF A SUBSEQUENT MEETING "AT POLITICAL LEVEL." WE ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT THIS MIGHT ENTAIL BUT WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THE IDEA WITH OUTERS AND GEENS. WE WOULD SUPPOSE HOWEVER THAT, IF SUCH A POLITICAL LEVEL MEETING WERE INTENDED TO GIVE FINAL OR DEFINITIVE APPROVAL TO A MULTILATERAL EFFORT SUPPORTIVE OF ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC REFORM, IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE ONLY AFTER NEW IMF AGREEMENT IS IN PLACE AND, PERHAPS, FOLLOWING NEXT SESSION OF PARIS CLUB ON ZAIRIAN DEBT RENEGOTIATION. THIS WOULD SLIP THE TIMETABLE INTO LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER. QUERY: DOES GOB SHARE THIS ASSESSMENT?

4. FYI WE BELIEVE WE PERCEIVE SOME SENSE OF URGENCY IN GOB ATTITUDE AND, IF CORRECT, WOULD LIKE SOME INDICATION AS TO SOURCE. IS THIS, FOR EXAMPLE, SIMPLY BEING RESPONSIVE TO ZAIRIAN PRESSURE TO SHOW SOME PROGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL FRONT?

5. FYI IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT ROLE OF IMF IN ZAIRIAN REFORM MAY BE CRITICAL TO SUCCESS OF MULTILATERAL EFFORT, AND ASSUME A PRIME PURPOSE OF OUTERS/EENS VISIT WILL BE TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION. WE

BELIEVE SUCH A BELGIAN LEAD CONTTNUES TO BE APPROPRIATE.
IF EMBASSY HAS
ANY INDICATIONS VIA GOB OF WHETHER PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS
HAVE BEEN MADE WITH IMF, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING
INFORMED.

6. FYI WE CONTINUE TO WANT THE BELGIANS TO TAKE THE
LEAD IN THIS EFFORT, AND DO NOT WISH TO PROVIDE OPPOR-
TUNITY FOR USG TO BE SINGLED OUT TO ZAIRIANS AS SPIKING
THE WHEELS OF PROGRESS. WE ARE ALREADY GETTING SIGNALS
THAT MOBUTU INCREASINGLY SEES US IN THAT ROLE. CON-
SEQUENTLY, EMBASSY IN SEEKING BELGIAN VIEWS SHOULD IN-
DICATE THAT WE ARE NOT SEEKING TO DICTATE COURSE AND
TIMING OF EVENTS. INSTEAD WE WANT TO SEE THIS EFFORT
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MOVE AHEAD WITH ALL PRUDENT SPEED, AND WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE A BETTER VIEW OF HOW BELGIANS SEE THE SCENARIO
SHAPING UP. IF INTENTION IS TO EXPLORE THIS IN DEPTH
WHEN OUTERS AND GEENS ARE IN WASHINGTON, WE AGREE. WE
WOULD IN INTERVAL, HOWEVER, LIKE SOME INDICATION OF
CURRENT GOB THINKING. END FYI VANCE

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